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DECEMBER, 1903.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The official Register and Directory of Physicians of California has been published by the State Society. It is sent free to members of component societies

NOTICE!
REGISTER. only. The price to non-members is \$2.50, and copies may be had, while the edition lasts, by application to the publication office of the Society, 31 Post Street, San Francisco, California. In distributing the Register to members, the Trustees have decided to send to the secretary of each component society the number of copies required for his society, requesting the secretaries to see that members receive them. If you have not received your copy of the Register by the 15th of December, write to your county society secretary and ask him why. Remember that it will take a little time to get all these books distributed, so wait till the 15th before you make complaint. Please remember that no copies will be given free, except to members and exchanges, and that if you lose or destroy your copy you will have to pay \$2.50 for another. Owing to the rapid increase in membership of almost all component societies, many names of members who have become such recently are not printed in black face type. These additions are being noted and future editions of the Register will be corrected in this respect. If you are a member of a component society and your name is not printed in black type, please let us know, but do not blame us, for we are not responsible. We hope you will like the Register, and that you will read carefully pages 15, 23 and 25.

On November 17th, the Hon. Frank J. Murasky, of the Superior Court, handed down a very important decision in the suits **SUITS AGAINST THE EXAMINERS.** pending before him against the Board of Medical Examiners of this state. These suits involved various phases of the constitutionality of the act regulating the practice of medicine in California, under which act the Board of Examiners derive authority. The suits were brought by Von Tiedeman, Gardina and Herbin, all of whom were practicing illegally; the two last named had been rejected by the Board of Examiners. The decision handed down by Judge Murasky is very emphatic in affirming the absolute constitutionality of those portions of the law in question, and the suits against the Board were simply thrown out. Another suit, that of Gerino, has been taken before the Supreme Court of California on a writ of *habeas corpus*, and as such cases are disposed of as promptly as possible, this suit will probably be decided very shortly, after argument before the Court in bank; December 7th has been set for the hearing. This suit involves the constitutionality of another element of the law, and of course the decision of this Court will be final. The only other suit of importance remaining is that of Hodghead, representing a medical school, in which the constitutional right of the State Medical Societies to appoint or elect members of the Board, as authorized by the State Legislature when it enacted the law, is questioned. The contention is one that has been raised and decided elsewhere, and probably the constitutionality of the law in this, as in all the other points, will be affirmed. It begins to look as though all these legal difficulties will be cleared away before the first of the year, and that 1904 will commence with a well-cleared-up and defined law.

In the November issue, the JOURNAL published an article by Dr. Currie on Rats and their relation to the spread of contagious disease. **RATS.** The JOURNAL is not aware of any similar article on this most important question, in a medical periodical, and therefore calls special attention to Dr. Currie's very valuable contribution to the subject. The public health authorities in charge of the work of cleaning up Chinatown are doing all that they can to get rid of the rats, but with comparatively little result. The rats seem to be, if anything, increasing in numbers, and every month specimens are found from which the bacillus pestis is isolated. During the month of October there were five deaths from plague; in November there were several more. A gentleman, who is in a position to form a close estimate, has advised us that, in his opinion, had